

Date: November 5, 2006 3:32:18 PM EST
To: Monica Desai <Monica.Desai@fcc.gov>
Subject: FCC- HAC Cell Phones

Dear Monica-

I have recently learned that prior to purchasing a HAC cell phone, it is critical to know whether the user's hearing aid has appropriate radio frequency (RF) immunity levels. It is my understanding from speaking to Linda Kozma Spytek at Gallaudet University's TAP Program that in order to have optimal cell phone compatibility with hearing aids, hearing aids need an RF rating of at least two. The RF rating of at least two ensures that minimal interference is achieved even if a M3/M4 and T3/T4 cell phone is utilized.

The problem is that a hearing aid's RF rating is not commonly known. My phone call with Linda was the first time that I was ever advised to look at RF ratings when purchasing a hearing aid. My daughter's Audiologist was also unaware of this information. She contacted the hearing aid manufacturer of my daughter's aids only to be told that they had no idea but they would contact Denmark to find out the information. Why is such critical information not readily available?

It is therefore important to ensure that consumers are aware of RF ratings when purchasing their hearing aids because everything the FCC is doing will be for naught if the person's hearing aids are not appropriate. While I understand that hearing aid labeling falls under the jurisdiction of the FDA and not the FCC, perhaps the FCC could work together with the FDA to ensure that the FDA is aware of this issue and how it impacts the FCC's work to achieve HAC cell phones?

Again, thank you for all of your assistance and help with this issue. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.
Best,

Janice Schacter